

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/026,114

Examiner

Benny Q. Tieu

Applicant(s)

CHOUDHURY ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Patent application filed Dec. 22, 2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-41.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-41 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Phelan (U.S. Patent No. 4,497,979) teaches a method for processing essential lines in a communication system wherein each service request is received it is put in a common queue. Periodically, and regardless of the load, the common queue is examined for requests that have not been served with a given time interval. If these requests are from essential lines, they are put in a special queue. When a server, such as a digit receiver or processor is available the special queue is served prior to the common queue (Abstract). Held (U.S. Patent No. 5,325,426) teaches a method for overload prevention in a switching center of a communications network wherein a momentary overload level is calculated for the switching center from what are referred to as overload indicators for indicting the traffic volume of the components of the switching center, and the port of a subscriber line is handled in conjunction with incoming call attempts in accordance with an allocated priority level (column 2, lines 16-60). However, prior art of record fails to teach, or renders obvious, alone or in combination, a method carried out in response to an off-hook state assumed by a terminal coupled to a switch via a serially connected arrangement of one or more resources, comprising the steps of determining whether the terminal has been unsuccessful in establishing a connection in at least K consecutive previous dialing sessions, and affirmatively delaying provision of a dial tone to the terminal when the step of determining concludes in the affirmative as directly claimed in independent claim 1. Further, prior art of record fails to teach a method for providing dial tone to off-hook terminals, in an arrangement where line identifiers of terminals that are in an off-hook condition, while waiting to receive a

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dial tone, are stored in a plurality of delay queues, where a first delay queue of said plurality of delay queues nominally injects a given delay, and all delay queues in said plurality of delay queues inject delays that are greater than said given delay and different from each other, comprising the steps of: selecting one of said queues as a selected queue when a dial tone generator is available for coupling to a terminal; extracting a line identifier from said selected queue; and coupling said dial tone generator to a terminal identified by said line identifier that is extracted by said step of extracting as directly claimed in independent claim 18. Prior art of record also fails to teach a method for carried out in response to an off-hook state assumed by a terminal coupled to a switch, comprising the steps of: evaluating a repeat redialing index, M, that corresponds to number of immediately previous, consecutive, dialing attempts by said terminal that were unsuccessful in establishing a connection, and based value of said index M, routing a line identifier of said terminal to delay queues selectively as details and directly claimed in independent claim 28.

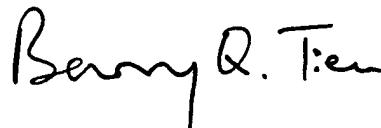
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benny Q. Tieu whose telephone number is 571-272-7490. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday: 6:30AM - 5:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on 571-272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Benny Q. Tieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Benny" being more prominent than the last name "Tieu".

Benny Q. Tieu
Primary Examiner
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